

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-10 /061 W

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O 161025Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4293

INFU DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 BANGKOK 8945

CINCPAC ALSO FOF POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: KHUKRIT ON THE RTG REACTION TO THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT

PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIN PRAMOT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT HOME  
MAY 15. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS  
ON THE RTG REACTION TO THE MAYAGUEZ

BEGIN TEXT:

REPORTER: WHAT MEASURES CAN YOU PUT IN FORCE TO PREVENT ANY  
TERRITORY IN THAILAND FROM BEING INVOLVED WHEN AMERICAN PLANES  
FROM BASES IN THAILAND GO AND BOMB CAMBODIA?

KHUKRIT: A MEASURE MUST BE FOUND, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ONE YET.

REPORTER: YOU STATED IN A NEWS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY THAT THE  
UNITED STATES HAS COMMITTED A MOST HEINOUS VIOLATION. BUT THIS  
MORNING THE DEFENSE MINISTER STATED IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A  
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VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY, THAT IT IS ONLY A BREACH OF POLITICAL

ETIQUETTE.

KHUKRIT: THAT IS A PERSONAL VIEW.

REPORTER: WHAT WILL YOU MAKE HIM DO?

KHUKRIT: MAKE HIM DO? MAKE HIM RESIGN? THAT CAN BE DONE ANY TIME, SAYING THAT THE PRESS GAVE AN ORDER FOR HIM TO RESIGN. OF WHAT USE WOULD THAT BE, AFTER PERFORMING WORK TO THE UTMOST OF OUR CAPABILITY. QUESTIONS PUT ARE DAMAGING ONLY, NOT SHOWING ANY SYMPATHY AT ALL. YOU YOURSELVES WENT AND ASKED HIM FOR HIS VIEW. QUESTIONS PUT TO THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT AND SATISFY YOU, BUT YOU GO AND PELT THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WITH QUESTIONS ON THE SAME SUBJECT. WHY DONT YOU QUESTION EVERYBODY, RIGHT DOWN TO JAINITORS, THEN COME AND INFORM THE PRIME MINISTER THAT JANITORS DISAPPROVE.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT THIS INCIDENT WHICH CONCERNS THE UNITED STATES WILL COMPEL THE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE TO REVISE POLICY ON WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES FROM THAILAND, IN ORDER TO SPEED UP WITHDRAWALS?

KHUKRIT: REGARDING THAT... I MUST REFRAIN FROM EXPRESSING ANY VIEW WHATSOEVER YET. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THERE MUST BE A MEASURE TO RETORT, BUT TO WHAT EXTENT IT WILL BE DRASTIC OR FIRM BUT GENTLE I CANNOT DISCLOSE AT PRESENT, BECAUSE A CABINET MEETING MUST BE HELD FOR CONSULTATIONS FIRST.

REPORTER: WILL IT TAKE A LONG TIME BEFORE A MEASURE TO RETORT CAN BE USED?

KHUKRIT: NOT LONG. IT CAN'T TAKE LONG.

REPORTER: WHEN WILL A CABINET MEETING BE HELD?

KHUKRIT: I MUST MEET THE FOREIGN MINISTER FIRST. THE MEETING MIGHT BE HELD THIS AFTERNOON.

REPORTER: WILL YOU CALL A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL ALSO?

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KHUKRIT: THAT IS NOT NECESSARY;  
A CABINET MEETING IS SUFFICIENT

AT THIS STAGE.

REPORTER: OFFICIALS OF ALL UNITS CONCERNED WERE OF THE SAME VIEW AS YOURS YESTERDAY.

KHUKRIT: OF COURSE.

REPORTER: POSTERS WERE AFFIXED IN ALL ROADS WITH STATEMENTS SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE A PROTEST.

KHUKRIT: A PROTEST HAS BEEN MADE ALREADY. AND OTHER MEASURES MUST BE USED IF A DEAF EAR IS TURNED TO THE PROTEST MADE. WE MUST NOT AND CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT, BECAUSE THE DIGNITY AND PRESTIGE OF OUR COUNTRY IS CONCERNED, AND IT IS THE DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SAFEGUARD IT. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT MUST SAFEGUARD THE DIGNITY AND PRESTIGE OF THAILAND TO THE UTMOST OF MY ABILITY. THAILAND HAS BEEN AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY THOUGHOUT, AND THIS A FACT IN THAI HISTORY NOBODY MUST FORGET, OR PRETEND TO FORGET.

REPORTER: COULD AMERICA'S ACTION IN IGNORING THIS PROTEST MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT BE CONSIDERED A TEST OF ITS ATTITUDE, THAT IT WILL NOT WITHDRAW ITS MILITARY FORCES FROM THAILAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY OF OUR GOVERNMENT?

KHUKRIT: MY THOUGHTS HAVE NOT GONE SO FAR AS THAT. EVERYTHING MUST HAVE ITS OWN TIMING. WE HAVE INFORMED THE UNITED STATES ALREADY THAT WE WISH IT TO COMPLETELY WITHDRAW ITS MILITARY FORCES FROM THAILAND WITHIN 12 MONTHS. IT IS A FACT THAT WITHDRAWALS HAVE BEEN STARTED ALREADY, THAT THEY HAVE OR ARE BEING WITHDRAWN FROM UBON. THEREFORE, REGARDLESS WHAT REASON THERE MIGHT BE, I CONSIDER THAT THE ACTION TAKEN THIS TIME IS NOT THAT OF A FRIEND AT ALL.

REPORTER: SUPPOSE AMERICA QUOTES THE 1967 STATEMENT, THEN CLAIMS IT HAS THE RIGHT IN FULL TO SEND TROOPS HERE, ONLY HAVING TO INFORM THAILAND...

KHUKRIT: NOT AT ALL. BECAUSE WHEN I SENT FOR THE AMERICAN CHARGE UNCLASSIFIED

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D'AFFAIRES IN ORDER TO INFORM AND EMPHASIZE TO HIM THAT WE DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED... WE TALKED ON THIS SUBJECT. THE CHARGE D' AFFAIRES ADMITTED THAT IT IS HIS VIEW, THAT HE CONSIDERS THAT THE BASE IN U-TAPAO IS ON THAI TERRITORY AND THAT IT IS A THAI BASE. SO THERE IS NO PROBLEM AT ALL IN THE MATTER. BUT THIS ACTION TAKEN IS NOT FRIENDLY OR THAT OF A FRIEND, SINCE IT CONSTITUTES VIOLATION OF THAI SOVEREIGNTY. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT THAT OUR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON MADE A STATEMENT THERE IN ALMOST THE SAME WORDS. ISN'T THAT CORRECT? THAT A SIMILAR STATEMENT WAS MADE BY OUR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON?

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O 161025Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4294

INFO DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 3 BANGKOK 8945

REPORTER: IN REGARD TO THE CABINET MEETING, WHICH MAY BE HELD TO-MORROW, DO YOU THINK THAT ANY SUGGESTION THAT MIGHT BE MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL BE TAKEN UP FOR CONSIDERATION?

KHUKRIT: IT THINK HHAT THE HOLDING OF A CABINET MEETING WILL DEPEND ON CONSULTATIONS HELD BETWEEN THE HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER. BUT SINCE THE CABINET MUST ACCEPT JOINT RESPONSIBILITY WE MUST INFORM IT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL MOST PROBABLY HAVE SEVERAL VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS BUT I DON'T THINK

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THEY WILL DIFFER FROM MINE. IT IS A MATTER THAT CONCERNS THE DIGNITY AND PESTIGE OF OUR COUNTRY, THEREFORE I DON'T THINK THAT ANYBODY WOULD HAVE OTHER VIEWS REGARDING IT.

REPORTER: WHAT VIEW DO YOU HAVE AT PRESENT...

KHUKRIT: I HAVE SAID AS MANY AS THREE TIMES ALREADY THAT I CANNOT AAY ANYTHING YET. YOU EVIDENTLY THOUGHT YOU WOULD CATCH ME OFF MY GUARD. NO CHANCE\*

REPORTER: SOME PERSONS EXPRESS VIEWS AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS THAT WE COULD TAKE SEVERAL DIFFERENT ACTIONS, SUCH AS...

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KHUKRIT: I HAVE READ SUGGESTIONS MADE ALREADY. I HAVE READ "THE NATION", "PRACHACHART";, ALREADY. ALSO. THEY ARE THE VIEW OF A NEWSPAPER, AND I HAVE READ THOSE NEWSPAPERS ALREADY.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT THIS ACTION ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES COULD BE CONSIDERED AS MAKING IT THE WORST FRIEND?

KHUKRIT: ANSWERING SUCH A QUESTION WOULD BE CHILDISH. NO ANSWER. (LAUGHS) WHAT A QUESTION TO ASK\* (LAUGHTER) NO ANSWER. TO ANSWER IT WOULD BE MOST STUPID.

REPORTER: TO WHAT EXTENT OR AT WHAT LEVEL IS IT SERIOUS?

KHUKRIT: I HAVE NEVER USED A RULER TO MEASURE IT. WHAT IS USED? A THERMOMETER, OR A RULER, OR SCALES? I DON'T KNOW BECAUSE I HAVENT EVER MEASURED ANYTHING LIKE THIS.

REPORTER: AFTER OUR GOVERNMENT HAS REMEDIED AND OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM, DO YOU THINK THAT OUR FOREIGN POLICY WILL BE REVISED, ESPECIALLY OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES?

KHUKRIT: I EMPHASIZED THE DAY I PRESENTED A PROTEST THAT GOOD FRIENDLY RELATIONS WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED IF THOSE TROOPS WERE NOT WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY, THAT FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND GOOD UNDERSTANDING EXISTING BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE EXPOSED TO SERIOUS AND DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES. THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED ALREADY, THEREFORE ANYTHING THAT CAUSES ADVERSE RESULTS MUST BE REVISED.

REPORTER: DO YOU INTEND TO INVITE THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFARIES TO COME AND MEET YOU AGAIN?

KHUKRIT: I HAVE NO SUCH INTENTION YET, BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHY TO INVITE HIM TO COME AND MEET ME.

REPORTER: DO YOU PLAN TO RECALL THE THAI AMBASSADOR IN ORDER...

KHUKRIT: NO COMMENT. SHOULD THAT ACTION BE TAKEN, IT MIGHT BE A MEASURE. I WILL NOT DISCLOSE ANYTHING OR DISCUSS ANY MEASURE TO BE TAKEN YET.

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REPORTER: A POINT AT ISSUE IS THAT THOSE TROOPS HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETELY PULLED OUT YET, IN ACCORDENCE WITH THE PROTEST YOU MADE. YOU RECEIVED A REPORT THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN YET, BUT IT HAPPENS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN NOW. WE HAVE ONLY REVIEWED THE FACT THAT TROOPS HAD COME HERE ALREADY.

BUT SINCE THEY BOMBED CAMBODIA IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS TODAY:  
SINKING GUN-BOATS, AND SINCE THEY TOOK OFF FROM A THAI BASE, DO  
YOU THINK IT NECESSARY TO REVIEW THE SITUATION FROM THE ANGLE  
THAT ACTION WENT AGAINST OUR POLICY?

KHUKRIT: WE MUST WAIT FOR DETAILS IN FULL FIRST, THEN CONSULTATIONS  
MUST BE HELD WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, BEFORE ANY COOCLUSION CAN  
BE REACHED. DETAILS ARE STILL CONFUSED ANC CONFLICTING AT PRESENT.  
REPORTS COME FROM MANY SOURCES. IT IS NECESSARY TO STUDY DETAILS  
FIRST IN ORDER TO BE CERTAIN WHAT ACTIONS THEY TOOK.

REPORTER: WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL FEELING OVER THIS AIDEMOMOIRE YOU  
ISSUED, THEN IT SEEMS WS IF THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT PLACE IM-  
PORTANCE ON...

KHUKRIT: THE PERSONAL FEELINGS OF THE PRIME MINISTER WERE DEADENED  
LONG AGO.

REPORTER: DON'T YOU FEEL HURT?

KHUKRIT: ABUSE BY NEWSPAPERS HAS MADE HURT FEELINGS COMPLETELY  
VANISH INTO THIN AIR ALREADY. NOTHING CAN HURT MY FEELINGS AGAIN  
OR ANY MORE NOW. SINCE I BECAME PRIME MINISTER, NO FEELINGS HAVE  
BEEN LEFT. I SIT ALL ALONE LIKE THIS, LIKE A SULTAN. (LAUGHS)

REPORTER: HAVE YOU RECEIVED A REPORT REGARDING THE SITUATION YET?

KHUKRIT: I HAVE RECEIVED A REPORT THAT MEETINGS AND PROTESTS HAVE  
BEEN STAGED.

REPORTER: WHAT ORDER HAVE YOU ISSUED?

KHUKRIT: NONE AT ALL. COOPERATING IN MAKING PROTESTS IS GOOD.  
THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF HAS MADE A PROEST. LET ANYBODY MAKE PROTESTS  
AND AS STRONGLY AS PLEASED. BUT THE EMBASSY MUST NOT BE BURNT DOWN  
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UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, BECAUSE THAT WOULD BE GOING TOO FAR.\*\*

REPORTER: SHOULD THE EMBASSY BE BURNT DOWN, WOULD IT BE CONSIDERED  
THAT WE ARE IN THE WRONG...

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4295

INFO DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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KHUKRIT: THAT MUST BE PREVENTED. (LAUGHS) ITS ASSETS AND PROPERTY  
MUST NOT BE DESTROYED. PROTESTS MUST NOT BE CARRIED OUT TO THAT  
EXTENT. IT CANNOT AND MUST NOT BE ALLOWED. NO CIVILIZED PEOPLE IN  
ANY COUNTRY TAKES SUCH ACTION. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE ADMINISTRA-  
TION TO SAFEGUARD PEACE AND ORDER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW. THE  
ASSETS AND PROPERTY OF NOBODY CAN BE BURNT OR DESTROYED. NO SUCH  
ACTION CAN BE TAKEN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. EVEN IF COUNTRIES  
ARE IN A STATE OF WAR, ASSETS AND PROPERTY OF THE ENEMY MUST BE  
CONFISCATED TO THE STATE. WE MUST SEIZE THEM AND THEY MUST NOT  
BE BURNT OR DESTROYED.

REPORTER: HAS THE UNITED STATES EVER CARRIED ON ACTIVITIES LIKE  
THIS BEFORE, SINCE IT CAME AND SET UP BASES IN THAILAND?

KHUKRIT: I CAN'T REMEMBER BECAUSE I WAS NOT IN THE GOVEROMENT  
IN THE PAST. THERE WERE PROBABLY NONE. I DON'T KNOW WHY I AM BEING  
HARASSED. (LAUGHS)

REPORTER: IT IS SAID THAT THAILAND IS FORTUNATE IN HAVING YOU AS  
PRIME MINISTER IN THIS SITUATION...

KHUKRIT: WHOSE GOOD FORTUNE?

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REPORTER: OUR COUNTRY'S.

KHUKRIT: OH WELL(LAUGHS) WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? AS PRIME MINISTER, I CANNOT ALLOW SUCH ACTIVITIES OR ACTIONS. WHAT CAN THE FOREIGN MINISTER DO? I AM THE PERSON WHO HAS TO KICK UP A ROW.

REPORTER: YOU ARE ABLE TO MAKE DECISIONS IMMEDIATELY.

KHUKRIT: WE MUST WAIT AND SEE. THE PRIME MINISTER DOES NOT HAVE GREATER INFORMATION THAN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. CONSULTATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE HELD ON DETAILS, AND SOME QUESTIONS MUST BE PUT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON SOME FACTS TOMORROW.

REPORTER: THIS SHOULD BE THE DIRECT AFFAIR OF THE HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT.

KHUKRIT: THAT IS WHAT IS SHOULD BE, BUT IT MUST BE THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHICH TAKES ACTION. IF THE FOREIGN MINISTER DOES NOT RETURN TOMORROW, I WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE AS ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER. BUT IT MOST PROBABLY AMERICA IS PULLING OUT ALREADY. THAT SHOWS MUTUAL RESPECT.

REPORTER: SUPPOSE PROTESTS ARE MADE/

KHUKRIT: WHAT? PROTESTS SAYING "NO"? FOR SECTION 154 TO BE USED TO CHASE IT OUT? (LAUGHS) SHOULD PROTESTS BE MADE, REASONS MUST BE LISTENED TO FIRST. WE CANNOT PLACE PERSONAL WISHES ABOVE ALL ELSE. THIS IS THE REASON WHY WE MUST WAIT IN CASE THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS ANY VIEW THAT MIGHT NOT BE THE SAME AS OURS, OR WHICH MIGHT BE BETTER, BECAUSE HE IS THE OFFICIAL DIRECTLY IN CHARGE. BUT IT MUST NOT BE CHASED OUT, MERELY BECAUSE ANYBODY MAKES PROTESTS. THAT WOULD BE AWFUL\* (LAUGHTS)

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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